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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report was to compare, after six semesters, the characteristics and attitudes of students who entered the Hawaii community college system in 1975 and who either graduated or dropped out. A comparison of the following characteristics of both groups revealed significant differences in all areas but one: sex, age at entry, marital status, high school background, entry status (no statistically significant difference), program, educational objective, cumulative grade point average, campus, and number of semesters attended. Responses to survey questionnaires by both groups revealed that graduates and non-continuing students also differed significantly with regard to their activities. Graduates had a higher proportion who worked and/or attended school (87% vs 82%), worked full-time (75% vs 69%), were employed in clerical or sales occupations (43% vs 34%), and felt that their jobs were related to their field of study (48% vs 29%). When comparing the way that graduates and non-continuing students evaluated their college experience, in several instances, the ratings of dropouts were more favorable than those given by the graduates. Graduates gave a higher proportion of good ratings to "broader educational background," "prepare for a career," and "course variety," while dropouts gave higher ratings to "instruction," "faculty/student relations," "facilities," and "the total college experience." (AYC)

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ED167225

COMPARISON OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS AT THE END OF SIX SEMESTERS

Fall 1975 Entering Students

Report No. 48

Student Flow Project

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February 1979

Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges
Educational Services Division
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A. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to compare, after six semesters, the characteristics of graduates and non-continuing students and the responses of these students to similar questions in follow-up surveys of alumni and dropouts.

B. Characteristics of Graduates and Non-Continuing Students

Graduates and non-continuing students (dropouts) were compared on ten characteristics: sex, age at entry, marital status, high school background, entry status, program, educational objective, cumulative grade point average, campus and number of semesters attended. *There were statistically significant differences between graduates and non-continuing students on all characteristics except entry status.*

The data in Table 1 summarize the dominant characteristics of these two groups of students. For example, 52 percent of the graduates and 37 percent of the non-continuing students were below 19 years of age at entry. A majority of the graduates were female, below 19 years of age at entry, single, new to higher education and earned A.S. degrees. A plurality were graduates of public, Oahu, high schools, majored in business, earned cumulative grade point averages of 2.0-2.9, graduated from Kapiolani Community College and attended the community colleges for six semesters.

TABLE 1
DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS

Characteristics[a]	Graduates (N = 1,400)		Non-Continuing Students (N = 6,418)	
Sex**	53%	Female	53%	Male
Entry Age***	52%	Below 19	37%	Below 19
			20%	each, 19-21 and over 29
Marital Status***	81%	Single	71%	Single
High School***	43%	Public, Oahu	49%	Public, Oahu
	32%	Public, Neighbor Islands	15%	Public, Neighbor Islands
Entry Status	72%	New	71%	New
Program***	30%	Business	50%	Liberal Arts
	28%	Technology		
Educational Objective***	56%	Associate of Science	50%	Associate of Arts
Grade Point Average***	38%	2.0 - 2.9	45%	Below 2.0
	35%	3.0 - 3.4	20%	2.0 - 2.9
Campus of Entry[b]***	26%	Kapiolani	30%	Leeward
	21%	Honolulu	23%	Kapiolani
Number of Semesters Attended***	34%	Six semesters	38%	One semester
	33%	Four semesters	32%	Two semesters

[a] Levels of significance, based on chi-square analysis, denoted thus: *.05 **.01 ***.001.

[b] See Appendix A for details.

A majority of non-continuing students were male, single, new to higher education and majored in liberal arts. A plurality were below 19 years of age at entry, graduated from public, Oahu, high schools, earned cumulative grade point averages below 2.0, enrolled at Leeward Community College and attended the community colleges for one semester only.

C. Characteristics of Respondents

Respondents to the Alumni Survey and the Non-Continuing Student Survey were compared on seven characteristics: sex, age at entry, program, educational objective, cumulative grade point average, campus and number of semesters attended. *There were statistically significant differences between responding graduates and non-continuing students on all characteristics except sex.*

The data in Table 2 summarize the dominant characteristics of both groups of respondents. A comparison of Tables 1 and 2 shows that the dominant characteristics of respondents were quite similar to those of their respective populations.

TABLE 2
DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS WHO RESPONDED TO FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

Characteristics[a]	Graduates (N = 877)	Non-Continuing Students (N = 2,641)
Sex	55% Female	53% Female
Entry Age***	53% Below 19	42% Below 19 20% Over 29
Program***	32% Business 26% Technology	51% Liberal Arts
Educational Objective***	56% Associate of Science	51% Associate of Arts
Grade Point Average***	37% 3.0 - 3.4 34% 2.0 - 2.9	37% Below 2.0 23% 3.5 and above
Campus[b]***	25% Kapiolani 20% Honolulu	30% Leeward 27% Kapiolani
Number of Semesters Attended***	36% Four semesters 34% Six semesters	33% each, one semester and two semesters

[a]Levels of significance, based on chi-square analysis, denoted thus: *.05 **.01 ***.001.

[b]See Appendix B for details.

D. Comparison of Responses

Each semester non-continuing students were sent a questionnaire to seek information on their reasons for dropping out, the nature of their activities and their evaluations of their community college experiences. The Alumni Survey was sent each fall to students who graduated in the previous fiscal year to solicit data on their activities and evaluations of their college experience. Although the two questionnaires were not identical, and some changes were made in them over the years, there were some comparable items, so responses to those questions were compared.

1. Activities

On all six comparable items, regarding the activities of respondents, graduates and non-continuing students differed significantly. The data in Appendix C show that graduates, compared to non-continuing students, had a higher proportion who:

- worked and/or attended school (87% vs 82%)
- worked full-time (75% vs 69%)
- were employed in clerical/sales occupations (43% vs 34%)
- felt that their jobs were closely related to their major fields of study (48% vs 29%).

To illustrate the differences in occupations and job/program relationships, Figures 1 and 2 were prepared.

FIGURE 1
OCCUPATIONS OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS

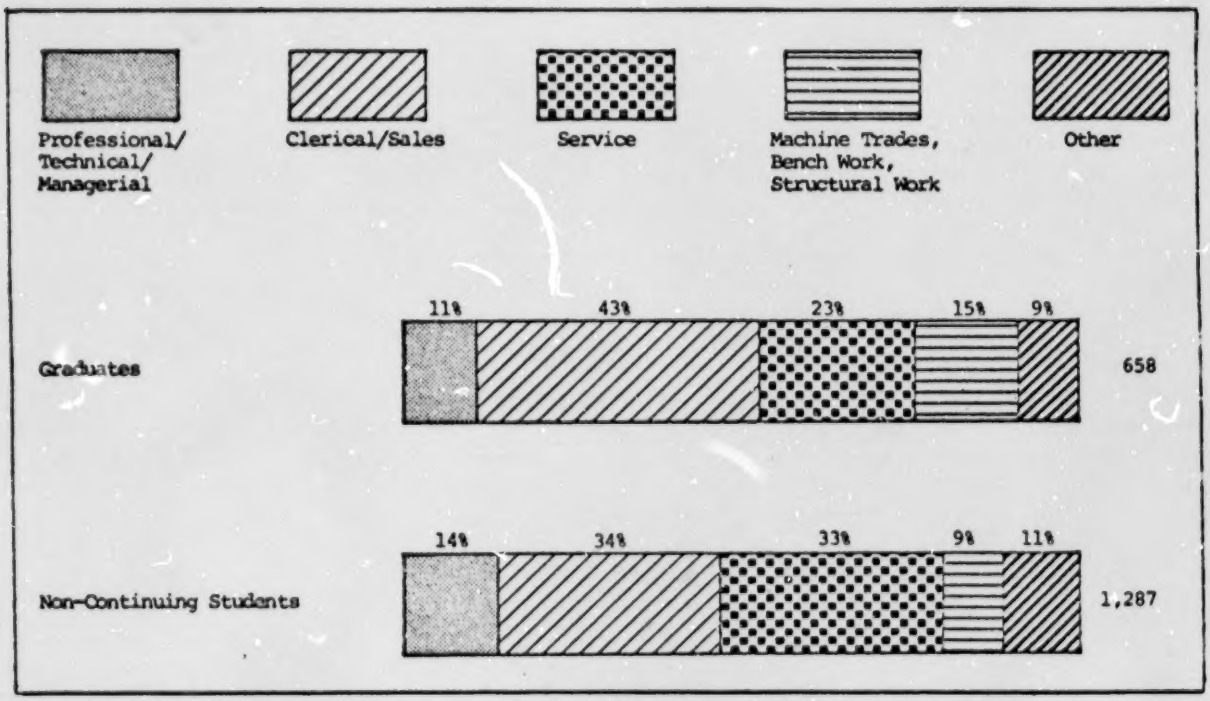
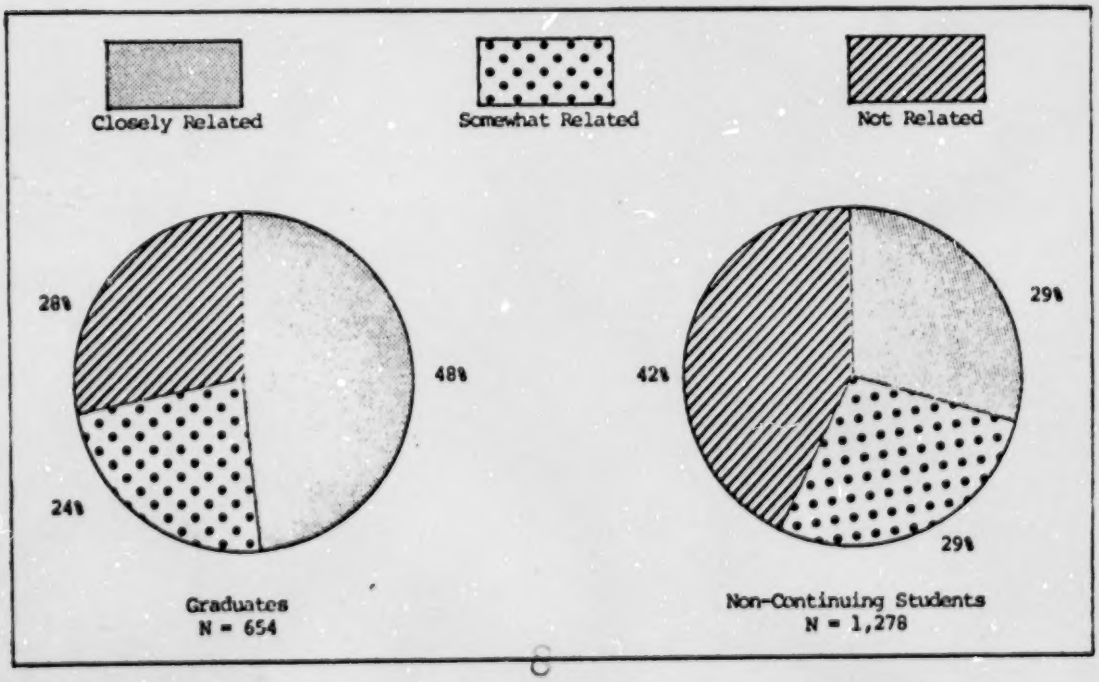


FIGURE 2
JOB/PROGRAM RELATIONSHIPS OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS



A comparison of graduates and dropouts who continued their education shows that a higher proportion of the latter group:

- became full-time students (82% vs 74%)
- attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa (51% vs 35%).

There were statistically significant differences between the two groups in their choice of major. This was true of those who attended the community colleges as well as those at four-year public institutions (U.H. Manoa, Hilo College and West Oahu College). The top three majors of both groups are given below:

	Graduates	Non-Continuing Students
Attending Community Colleges	(N = 154)	(N = 144)[1]
Liberal Arts		35% (51)
Business	19% (29)	19% (27)
Technology	28% (43)	23% (33)
Unclassified	32% (49)	
Attending Manoa, Hilo, West Oahu	(N = 140)	(N = 322)
Arts & Sciences	45% (63)	58% (186)
Bus. Adm. & TIM	20% (28)	12% (38)
Trop. Ag. or Home Economics	10% (14)	9% (30)

2. Evaluation of Community College Experience

There were nine comparable items, dealing with evaluation of the community college experience, in the Alumni Survey and the Non-Continuing Student Survey. *On eight items there were statistically significant differences in the ratings of graduates and non-continuing students.*[2] In several instances, the ratings of dropouts were more favorable than those of graduates as shown in Figure 3. This may partially be due to the fact that graduates had either a three- or four-point scale in rating various items, while non-continuing students had a five-point scale. In comparing the evaluations of graduates and non-continuing students we developed a three-point scale because that seemed to accommodate the various scales most appropriately.

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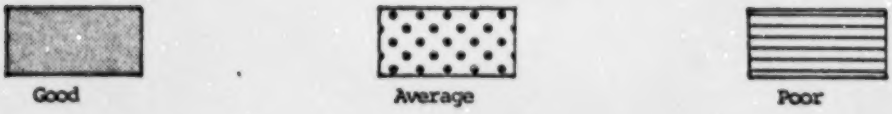
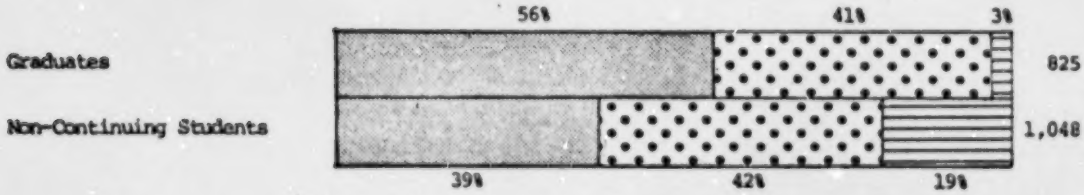
[1] These are students who left their campus of entry and continued their education at another community college of the University of Hawaii.

[2] There was no significant difference between graduates and non-continuing students on "counseling services."

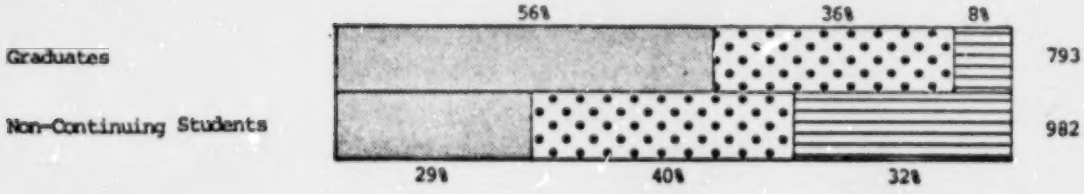
FIGURE 3
EVALUATION OF COLLEGE EXPERIENCE BY
GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS



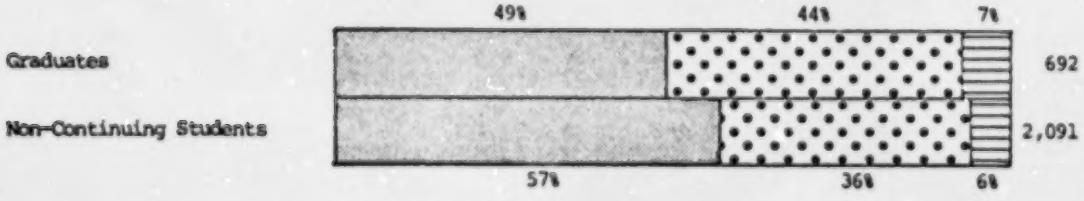
1. Broaden Educational Background



2. Prepare for a Career



3. Meet People/Make Friends



4. Instruction

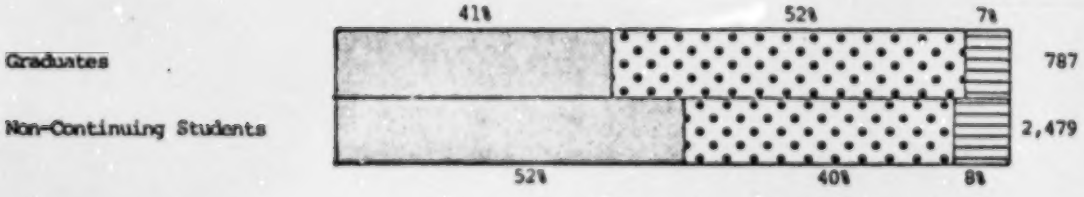
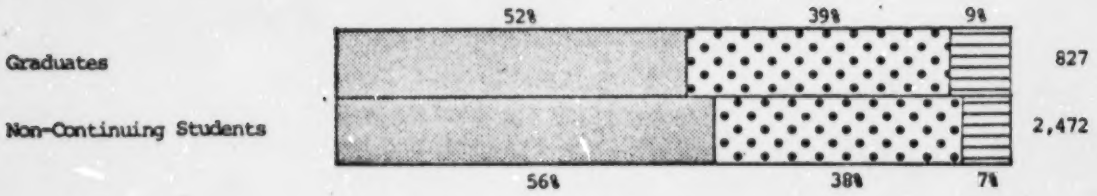
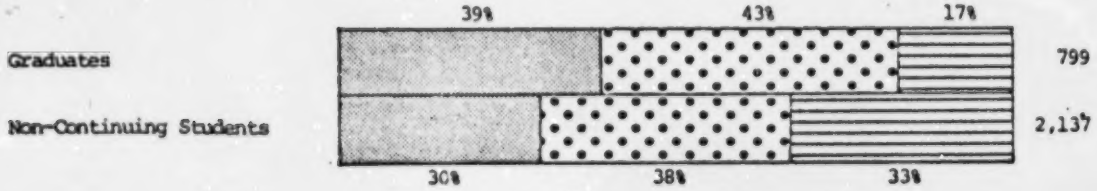


FIGURE 3 (Cont.)

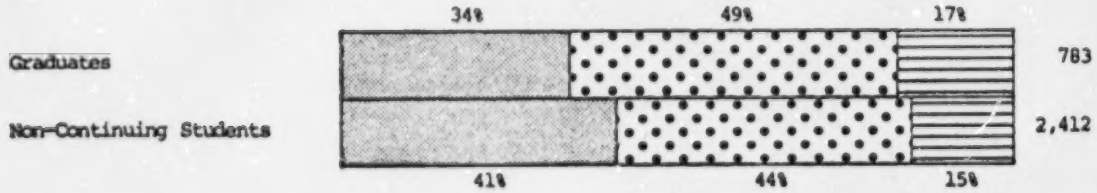
5. Faculty/Student Relations



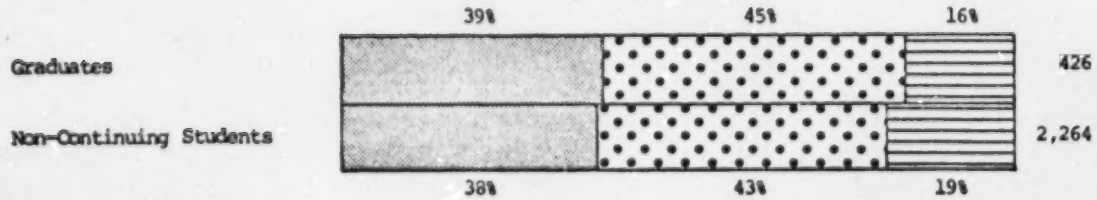
6. Course Variety



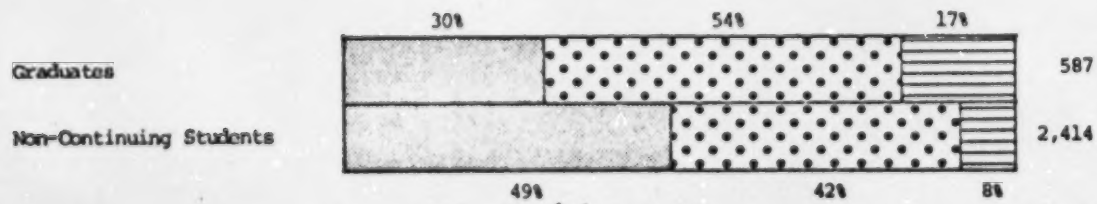
7. Facilities/Equipment



8. Counseling Services



9. Total College Experience



Compared to non-continuing students, graduates had a higher proportion of "good" ratings on:

- broaden educational backgrounds (56% vs 39%)
- prepare for a career (56% vs 29%)
- course variety (39% vs 30%)

On the following, however, graduates had a lower proportion of "good" ratings:

- meet people/make friends (49% vs 57%)
- instruction (41% vs 52%)
- faculty/student relations (52% vs 56%)
- facilities/equipment (34% vs 41%)
- total college experience (30% vs 49%)

A "poor" rating on "total college experience" was given by 17 percent of responding graduates and 8 percent of non-continuing students. This 2:1 ratio was somewhat unexpected.

E. Concluding Comment

It was not surprising to find many significant differences in the personal and academic characteristics of graduates and dropouts (students who left their campus of entry). Nor was it unexpected to find a higher proportion of graduates immediately becoming employed, continuing their education or combining both.

Other findings that confirmed our expectations were: a higher proportion of employed graduates, in contrast to employed dropouts, became full-time workers and felt that their jobs and major fields of study were closely related. Somewhat unexpected was the circumstance regarding students who continued their education; i.e., a higher proportion of dropouts became full-time students and attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa.[3] They are therefore not "dropouts" from educational institutions; indeed, the community colleges may have provided the experience and stimulus to encourage these students to continue their education.

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[3]There were 600 non-continuing students with grade point averages of 3.5 and above who responded to the surveys.

The rather favorable ratings given by non-continuing students in evaluating various aspects of their college experience were not anticipated. The lower ratings of graduates--particularly on instruction and the total college experience--should be carefully considered by campus personnel. To aid them in this effort as well as to conduct an analysis of their students' responses, separate computer reports for the seven campuses were prepared and will be sent to the office of the Dean of Student Services.

We urge campuses to analyze their data and to consider ways to improve instruction and counseling as well as the physical environment. This would be a meaningful way of saying "mahalo" to the hundreds of graduates and dropouts who took the time to complete the follow-up surveys and would help to serve present and future students in more effective ways.

APPENDIX A

GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS

CAMPUS	COUNT / COL PCT	STYPE: GRADUATE (1)	STYPE: NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
HAWAII COM COLL	1	233	413	646
		16.6	6.4	8.3
HONOLULU C C	2	296	1259	1555
		21.1	19.6	19.9
KAPIOLANI C C	3	368	1444	1812
		26.3	22.5	23.2
KAUAI COM COLL	4	94	343	437
		6.7	5.3	5.6
LEEWARD COM COLL	5	231	1898	2129
		16.5	29.6	27.2
MAUI COM COLLEGE	6	138	635	773
		9.9	9.9	9.9
WINDWARD C C	7	40	426	466
		2.9	6.6	6.0
	COLUMN TOTAL	1400	6418	7818
		17.9	82.1	100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 256.93213 WITH 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

APPENDIX B

GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS WHO RESPONDED TO FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS, BY CAMPUS

CAMPUS	COUNT / COL PCT	STYPE: GRADUATE (1)	STYPE: NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
1 HAWAII COM COLL		150	129	279
		17.1	4.9	7.9
2 HONOLULU C C		176	546	722
		20.1	20.7	20.5
3 KAPIOLANI C C		223	702	925
		25.4	26.6	26.3
4 KAUAI COM COLL		59	102	161
		6.7	3.9	4.6
5 LEEWARD COM COLL		150	799	949
		17.1	30.3	27.0
6 MAUI COM COLLEGE		92	210	302
		10.5	8.0	8.6
7 WINDWARD C C		27	153	180
		3.1	5.8	5.1
COLUMN TOTAL		877	2641	3518
		24.9	75.1	100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 192.84206 WITH 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

APPENDIX C

RESPONSES OF GRADUATES AND NON-CONTINUING STUDENTS

1. Current Activities

Note: The Non-Continuing Student Survey did not include "employed & in school."

CURRACT	STYPE 1 GRADUATE	STYPE 2 NON-CONTINUING	ROW TOTAL
1 WORKING ONLY	431	1408	1839
	49.3	54.0	52.8
2 ATTD SCH ONLY	112	717	829
	12.8	27.5	23.8
3 EMPLOYED & IN SC	220	0	220
	25.2	0.0	6.3
4 UNEMPLOYED	55	227	282
	6.3	8.7	8.1
5 OTHER	56	254	310
	6.4	9.7	8.9
COLUMN TOTAL	874	2606	3480
	25.1	74.9	100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 731.00049 WITH 4 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

2. Employed Respondents: Work Status

Note: The Non-Continuing Student Survey did not include "more than one job."

WORKSTAT	STYPE 1 GRADUATE	STYPE 2 NON-CONTINUING	ROW TOTAL
1 FULL-TIME	471	889	1360
	70.7	69.0	69.6
2 PART-TIME	164	400	564
	24.6	31.0	28.8
3 > 1 JOB	31	0	31
	4.7	0.0	1.6
COLUMN TOTAL	666	1289	1955
	34.1	65.9	100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 66.44092 WITH 2 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

3. Employed Respondents: Occupation

	STYPE		
COUNT / COL PCT	GRADUATE (1)	NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
OCCUP			
1 PROF, TECH, MGR	72 / 10.9	176 / 13.7	248 / 12.8
2 CLERICAL & SALES	280 / 42.6	443 / 34.4	723 / 37.2
3 SERVICE OCCUP	148 / 22.5	424 / 32.9	572 / 29.4
4 MCH BENCH & STRL	100 / 15.2	109 / 8.5	209 / 10.7
5 OTHER	58 / 8.8	135 / 10.5	193 / 9.9
COLUMN TOTAL	658 / 33.8	1287 / 66.2	1945 / 100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 46.04485 WITH 4 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

4. Employed Respondents: Job/Major Relatedness

	STYPE		
COUNT / COL PCT	GRADUATE (1)	NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
JOBREL			
1 CLOSELY RELATED	314 / 48.0	373 / 29.2	687 / 35.6
2 SOMEWHAT RELATED	157 / 24.0	364 / 28.5	521 / 27.0
3 NOT RELATED	183 / 28.0	541 / 42.3	724 / 37.5
COLUMN TOTAL	654 / 33.9	1278 / 66.1	1932 / 100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 70.10562 WITH 2 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

5. Enrolled Respondents: Enrollment Status

ENRLSTAT	STYPE: GRADUATE (1)	STYPE: NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
1 FULL-TIME	265	536	801
	74.2	81.5	78.9
2 PART-TIME	92	122	214
	25.8	18.5	21.1
COLUMN TOTAL	357	658	1015
	35.2	64.8	100.0

CORRECTED CHI SQUARE = 6.84148 WITH 1 DEGREE OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0089

6. Enrolled Respondents: School Attended

SCHOOL	STYPE: GRADUATE (1)	STYPE: NON-CONTINUING (2)	ROW TOTAL
1 OAHU COM COLLEGE	115	149	264
	32.7	22.4	26.0
2 NEW ISLE COM COL	51	18	69
	14.5	2.7	6.8
3 UH--MANOA	124	339	463
	35.2	51.1	45.6
4 HILO OR WEST OAH	21	26	47
	6.0	3.9	4.6
5 OTHER HI SCHOOLS	9	35	44
	2.6	5.3	4.3
6 OTHER	32	97	129
	9.1	14.6	12.7
COLUMN TOTAL	352	664	1016
	34.6	65.4	100.0

RAW CHI SQUARE = 80.41962 WITH 5 DEGREES OF FREEDOM. SIGNIFICANCE = 0.0000

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APR 6 1979
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